

A RESOLUTION to urge the United States Congress to maintain funding for public television.

WHEREAS, for years, public television has provided children and adults throughout the United States with informative and educational programming; and

WHEREAS, through its funding source, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, public television brings quality news programming, cultural entertainment, children's educational television, and other diverse features to the homes of millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, national and regional public broadcasting has incorporated programming for those views with disabilities, including descriptive video for the blind and specialized programs for the hearing-impaired; and

WHEREAS, all public broadcasting depends upon monies provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, who, in turn, receives funding from federal sources; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being essential for daily operation, these CPB funds are used as seed money with which to attract substantial donations from corporations, foundations, and private viewers, resulting in four to five dollars for each dollar provided by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this public-private funding partnership, public television remains the only medium through which viewers may continue to see quality, commercial-free programming without depending on advertisers or cable subscribers for capital; and

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that some members of the United States Congress feel that funding for public television should be discontinued because some programs, from time to time, demonstrate political bias; and

WHEREAS, discontinuing funds for public television would not only eliminate the broadcast of programs with broad-based, nationwide appeal, but this action would also create enormous hardships for regional and local stations who depend on CPB funds for area programming; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of this General Assembly that the elimination of broadcasting funds would seriously undermine the truly admirable industry goal: to provide free public access to informational and educational television; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we strongly urge the Congress of the United States to maintain the funding for public television programming.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate.

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